

near "Weybridge, whither Zola and his friend Desmoulin were removed on quitting Wimbledon.

Through the agency of Mr. "Wareham, a furnished country-house was next secured for the novelist, this being Perm, Oatlands Chase, the residence of Mr. E. GL Venables, and it was there that Zola settled down to write his novel "Ffecondit4" the first volume of his new series, "Les Quatre Evangiles," which he had been quietly planning amid all the turmoil of the Dreyfus Affair, — a positive proof of the superiority of his mind, for not one man in a hundred would have had the courage, the coolness, or the power to take up a great literary task and isolate himself in study at every available moment in such extraordinary circumstances as those in which Zola had found himself,—insulted, befouled, and condemned. He had now also been suspended from the Legion of Honour, he had sacrificed large sums of money, and his prospects were by no means bright. He could only hope that time might elicit the truth and bring about a revulsion of feeling in Ms favour. Meanwhile, he turned to his usual panacea, work, diverted his mind as far as possible from the great campaign, which he knew would be conducted ably by all his fellow-fighters in Paris, and began to pen his book on the causes of the depopulation of Trance.

M. Desmoulin went to Paris to fetch the materials for

"Fécondité"; servants were engaged and other arrangements made by Mrs. Vizetelly; and her daughter, Violette, — a Parisienne by birth, whose first words had been lisped in French,—went to live with Zola to act as his interpreter, and so far as her youthfulness permitted, take charge of housekeeping matters. A bicycle was provided for